

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. A notice of allowance is respectfully requested. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1 and 12, which are independent, are hereby amended. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification, specifically at pages 43-44.

No new matter has been introduced. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-14 and 17-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,349,303 to Saito et al. (hereinafter, merely “Saito”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,124,164 to Chemtob (hereinafter, merely “Chemtob”) and in further view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0023430 to Srinivasan (hereinafter, merely “Srinivasan”).

Claims 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Saito, Chemtob, Srinivasan, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,470,356 to Suzuki, et al. (hereinafter, merely “Suzuki”).

III. RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

“A network-information-processing system comprising:

...where the GUI function of the information-processing apparatus that becomes the clerk displays face of attendees, **distance information of attendees**, IP address, icons of at least the information-processing apparatus and information-creating apparatus, and connections between the information-processing apparatus and information-creating apparatus.” (Emphasis added)

Applicants respectfully submit Saito, Chemtob, Srinivasan, and Suzuki, taken either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest the above-identified features of claim 1. Specifically, nothing is found that teaches where the GUI function of the information-processing apparatus that becomes the clerk displays face of attendees, distance information of attendees, IP address, icons of at least the information-processing apparatus and information-creating apparatus, and connections between the information-processing apparatus and information-creating apparatus, as recited in claim 1.

Indeed, claim 1 recites displaying **distance information of attendees**. None of the references relied by the Office Action teaches or suggests this feature.

Therefore, Applicant submits that independent claim 1 is patentable.

For reasons similar to, or somewhat similar to, those described above with regard to independent claim 1, independent claim 12 is also patentable.

IV. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent on an independent claim discussed above, and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

Similarly, because Applicants maintain that all claims are allowable for at least the reasons presented hereinabove, in the interests of brevity, this response does not comment on each and every comment made by the Examiner in the Office Action. This should not be taken as acquiescence of the substance of those comments, and Applicants reserve the right to address such comments.

CONCLUSION

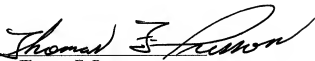
In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference, or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicant respectfully requests early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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